



Pediatric Clinic
ASTHMA EDUCATION HANDOUTS
Asthma Medication Review

Albuterol

Brand Names:

Proventil (tablet, liquid, oral inhaler, solution for inhalation)
Proventil Repetabs (long-acting tablet)
Ventolin (tablet, liquid, oral inhaler, solution for inhalation)
Ventolin Rotacaps (Capsule for inhalation)

Common Uses:

Albuterol belongs to the class of medicines called bronchodilators, which are used to treat and prevent asthma attacks and lessen breathing difficulties caused by various other non-infection-related respiratory problems. Albuterol is effective by opening the airways and then preventing them from closing again.

Doses:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Syrup | Your Child's Dose Is: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tablets | Your Child's Dose Is: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oral inhalation | Your Child's Dose Is: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solution for inhalation | Your Child's Dose Is: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capsules for inhalation | Your Child's Dose Is: _____ |

Tips:

- May cause dizziness or drowsiness in some people. Until it is known how the child will react to the medicine, activities that require mental alertness (such as physical education and playground activity) should be restricted.
- Consult the child's physician about giving extra inhalations, because increasing the number of inhalations may be dangerous.
- Have the child avoid eating excessive amounts of chocolate and drinking beverages containing caffeine; these may make her more susceptible to insomnia, irritability, and hyperactivity.
- For older children, dry mouth may be relieved by chewing gum or sucking on hard candy or ice chips. Younger children may need extra liquids.

Special Instructions:

1. Do not stop medication without talking to the doctor; even if breathing problems are gone.
2. It is important to take this medicine at the same times of day as ordered by the doctor.

3. Never give more or less medicine.
4. Clean the inhaler at least one time a day. Remove the metal canister from the plastic parts. Rinse the plastic with warm running water and dry well. Put the metal part back in the plastic by twisting and then replace the cap over the mouth piece.
5. Check with your doctor/nurse before giving any non-prescription medicine to your child.

Missed Doses:

Give a missed dose as soon as you remember, but if it is almost time for the next dose, give the dose for that time. DO NOT GIVE A DOUBLE DOSE.

Side Effects:

Report to doctor/nurse if any of the following are bothersome or continue: nervousness, tremors, headaches, dizziness or weakness, trouble sleeping, nausea or vomiting, muscle cramps, fast pounding of the heart, heartburn.

Report to doctor/nurse if the sputum (the spit your child coughs up during an asthma attack) thickens or changes color from clear to yellow, green, or gray. This may be a sign of an infection.

If your child has a funny taste or sore throat or mouth after inhalations, let your child gargle with water after each treatment.

Albuterol Medication Sheet

	Syrup/Tablets	Oral Inhalation (MDI)	Solution for Nebulizer	Capsules for Inhalation
Adverse Side Effects	Nervousness, headache, fast heartbeat, trembling, insomnia, increased blood pressure, dizziness, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, hyperactivity, flushing, upset stomach.	Dry throat and mouth. Nervousness, headache, fast heartbeat, trembling, dizziness, and flushing can also occur when too many inhalations are given or when the medicine is given too often.	Dry throat and mouth, nervousness, headache, fast heartbeat, trembling, dizziness, and flushing.	Coughing, dry throat and mouth. Nervousness, headache, fast heartbeat, trembling, dizziness, and flushing can also occur when too many capsules are given or when the medicine is given too often.
	<i>No major medication interactions have been found with other oral medications</i> Children may be more susceptible to side effects of insomnia, nervousness, hyperactivity, and fast heartbeat than adults. Severe reactions are very rare and can include: chest pain, hallucinations, difficult or painful urination, rash, irregular heartbeat.			
How to Give This Medication	For liquid medicine, use a syringe or measuring spoon to give an accurate dose. Tablets should be given with a full glass of water.	Follow directions that the nurse or respiratory therapist showed you (these are the usual instructions for your child), or use a spacer as directed.	Follow directions that the nurse or respiratory therapist showed you (these are the usual instructions for your child).	Capsules should be given with a full glass of water.
Storage	The oral medicine should be stored in a cool, dry place away from light. Prolonged exposure to heat, moisture, or light can damage the medicine.	The inhaler should be kept in a cool place. Do not puncture or expose the inhaler to prolonged periods of heat.	The liquid may be stored at room temperature and does not need to be refrigerated.	The capsules should be stored in a cool, dry place away from light.
Administration	Best if taken on an empty stomach (1 hour before a meal or 2-3 hours after a meal). If the child develops an upset stomach from albuterol, it can be given with food or milk. The long-acting tablet should be swallowed whole with a full glass of water. Do not crush or allow the child to chew it. If the child is unable to swallow the <u>non-long-acting tablets</u> , they can be crushed and mixed with a small amount of water or soft food (apple-sauce, pudding, jam, or jelly). This mixture should be swallowed and not chewed. The entire mixture must be swallowed to ensure that the child received the full dose.	To prevent dry throat and mouth, have the child rinse her mouth with water after each inhalation. If the child is receiving more than one puff of the oral inhaler, give the second puff at least 1 minute after first one. If the child is receiving another inhaled medicine for asthma, the entire inhaled albuterol dose should be given at least 10-15 minutes before the other inhaled medicine is given, or as directed by the physician.		